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QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 8 April 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to request that the attached Message of Struggle of the Women of Cyprus for Freedom and Justice, which was signed by hundreds of thousands of women and men in Cyprus on the occasion of International Women's Day, on 8 March 1994, be circulated as a document of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 54, and of the Security Council.

This message is a reflection of the determination of the people of Cyprus never to accept the forcible division of their country and their people. It is an appeal by the women of Cyprus to the international community to act in solidarity and to support the implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus and the search for a just and viable solution to the problem of Cyprus that will restore the human rights of all Cypriots and secure the unity of the country.

(Signed) Alecos SHAMBOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Message of Struggle of the Women of Cyprus for Freedom and Justice, signed on 8 March 1994

In our turbulent times, our small country, the island of Aphrodite, with its 9,000-year history, has been living its own ordeal for 20 years now.

Since July-August 1974, one third of the territory of Cyprus has been suffering under conditions of occupation by Turkish occupation troops. Despite the adoption of numerous resolutions and decisions by the United Nations, the situation resulting from the invasion and occupation continues and deteriorates. The problem of Cyprus seeks a political solution.

Beyond the political aspects of the problem of Cyprus lie the humanitarian aspects, which persist and constitute a provocation and a shame for humanity, particularly at a time when renewed emphasis is being given to the implementation of universal respect for human rights.

As a result of the Turkish invasion and occupation, 200,000 people were uprooted by force of arms and were rendered refugees in their own country. Thousands were killed and thousands became orphans. 1,619 persons are still missing.

Thousands of illegal settlers have been settled in our occupied lands, our cultural heritage is being destroyed and the demographic character of our island is being provocatively altered.

The thousands of Greek Cypriots who were enclaved in the occupied areas were forcibly driven from their homes and lands through methods of intimidation and oppression and only a few hundred now remain in the occupied area, living under oppressive conditions of terror.

The human rights of the people of Cyprus are being flagrantly violated.

We the women of Cyprus, who constitute 51 per cent of the island's population and who continue the struggle along with the rest of the people of Cyprus for justice and restoration of the human rights of the Cypriots, make an appeal to the United Nations to take all appropriate measures to implement its own resolutions on Cyprus.

We appeal to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session.

We appeal to the Heads of State and Government.

We call upon every people in the world and every human being who believes in justice and human rights for solidarity and support in our struggle for implementation of the resolutions of the United Nations on Cyprus, and for a just and viable solution to the problem of Cyprus, a solution which will secure:

- The unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus;

- The withdrawal of the Turkish occupation troops and settlers;

- The right of all refugees to return to their ancestral homes;

- The three basic freedoms: freedom of movement, freedom of settlement and the right to property;

- The ascertainment of the fate of the missing persons;

- The implementation of the third Vienna Agreement concerning the enclaved Greek Cypriots;

- In general, the restoration of the human rights of all the legitimate inhabitants of Cyprus.

With the expectation that our appeal will be heard, we look with hope into the future for a peaceful and tranquil homeland which will make its further contribution to world peace and to the prevalence of world justice.